



Florida House of Representatives

Democratic Office

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TAXPAYER DOLLARS WASTED UNDER HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

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TALLAHASSEE, FL --- The Republican leadership in the Florida House of Representatives has wasted at least \$840,000 of taxpayer monies by failing to address the people's priorities in the first three weeks of the 2009 legislative session.

Despite high unemployment, a low-wage economy, staggering home-insurance costs and persistent consumer demand for relief, Republican leaders are ignoring Florida's economic crisis.

Today, Florida House Democrats are calling on House Speaker Larry Cretul, House Majority Leader Adam Hasner, House Finance & Taxation Committee Chair Ellyn Bogdanoff and other House Republican budget writers to begin the urgent work of delivering financial relief to struggling middle-class Floridians.

"At a conservatively estimated price tag of \$40,000 a day for the Legislature's time in Tallahassee, we've already wasted \$840,000 or more of taxpayer dollars," said House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands. "That's

disgusting and the people should revolt.

“It’s time that the Legislature begins the urgent task of delivering financial help to struggling middle-class Floridians, protecting public schools, ensuring quality health care for our residents and improving the state’s business climate.

“Republicans are wasting taxpayer dollars in a misguided legislative session. They have failed to fix our insurance crisis, blocked every attempt to meaningfully discuss how the state taxes its residents and businesses, and they still refuse to acknowledge Florida’s fair share of federal economic recovery monies,” said Leader Sands.

“Instead of damaging our state’s competitiveness with hostile warnings of major spending cuts, school closings, teacher layoffs and tougher times for students and parents who pay college tuition, House Republicans should use the legislative session to improve Floridians’ economic condition,” Sands added.

“It’s repulsive that House Republicans are entering the mid-section of the legislative session by bringing their Rush Limbaugh-style conservative agenda to the House floor instead of bringing economic relief to our state,” Leader Sands said. “Now is not the time to clamp down on people’s right to organize nor is it time to impose new hurdles for women to make choices about their health.”

“Our Republican colleagues have lost focus and have lost sight of the middle class,” he said. “Floridians would prefer that the Legislature enact solutions to economic woes that have been exacerbated by Republicans’ failed ‘trickle-down’ tax policies.

“Floridians are worried about the economy,” Leader Sands said. “More than 8 percent of Floridians are unemployed and minorities are suffering considerably higher levels of joblessness.

“It’s essential that Republican leaders stop posturing and start writing a new state budget that takes into account the difficulties facing Floridians.”

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